

In the Claims

1. (previously presented) A method of securing a network interface device installed on a host computer comprising:

initializing, without transmit or receive functions for network communications, the network a network interface device installed on a host computer without transmit functions;

receiving, at the network interface device installed on the host computer, notification ~~that from~~ the host computer on which the network interface is installed that a user has been authenticated to the host computer;
and

in response to receiving notification that the ~~host~~ user has been authenticated to the host computer, enabling transmit and receive functions for network communications of the network interface device installed on the host computer.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising accessing a firewall policy server to download firewall policy information that is used by a firewall on the network interface device after enabling transmit functions of the network interface device.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein accessing a firewall policy server is performed before transmitting or receiving data from any other clients or servers.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein accessing a firewall policy server comprises authenticating the firewall policy server.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein receiving notification that a ~~host~~ user has been authenticated to the host computer includes receiving notification that the ~~host has been~~ authenticated ~~for~~ authenticated user is associated with a role, and wherein accessing a firewall policy server comprises downloading firewall policy information for the role.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving firewall policy information communicated to the host computer and using the firewall policy information at a hardware based firewall on the network interface device.

10. -20. (cancelled)